(ASOR) stating the reasons for the difference in the rates, if any in (i) overtime allowances and (ii) medical reimbursements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): The Food Corporaton of India does not have any provision of schedule, of rates for payment of medical bills and overtime allawances. Generally the term 'above the schedule of rates' (ASOR) is adopted in case of handling and transport contracts.

Details of expenditure incurred by the Corporation on overtime allowances and medical reimbursements during the last four years are as under:—

*(Rs in lakhs)*

| Year | OTA | Medical |
|---|---|---|
| 1981-82 . . . | 454·76 | 166·15 |
| 1982-83 . . . | 610·33 | 213·88 |
| 1983-84 . . . | 1017·77 | 421·45 |
| 1984-85 . . . | 1650·34 | 411·40 |

**Diversion of levy sugar for sale fit open market**

2648. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that about nine lakh tonnes of sugar out of the levy quota of 65 per cent of production was diverted by Government for sale in the open mar ket during 1984-85 thereby helping the sugar industry to earn about Rs. 300 crore at the cost of the consumer and the far mer as the stock of sugar which was to be sold through public distribution system at Rs, 4.40 per kilogram was sold in the open market at Rs. 7.50 per kilogram; and

(b) if so,- what are the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUP-PLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The allocation of levy sugar at the present rate of 3.13 lakh tonnes per month was made for all months for distribution through Public Distribution System 10 meet the requirement of all consumers including those belonging to the vulnerable sections. When prices of open market sugar started rising, some quantity of levy sugar from the surplus was diverted for release in the open market to bring down the prices in the interests of the consumer? This measure had augmented the availability of freesale sugar and had also helped to reduce the sugar prices in the market specially during the festival season. This diversion is one of the strategies available on the supply management side. Such diversions have taken place in the past also-

As a result the open market sugar prices which were in the range of about Rs. 6.75 per kg. to Rs. 8.30 per kg. in the month of July, 1985 had declined to a range of about Rs. 6.20 per kg. to Rs. 7.30 per kg. during the recent festival season benefiting the consumers. Improved realisation by the sugar factories also speeded up the clearance of cane price dues to the sugar-cone farmers which stood at only Rs. 13.43 crores constituting 1.1 per cent of the total cane price dues as on 31-10-1985.

**Crop insurance scheme for grapes in Andhra Pradesh**

2649. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the crops covered by crops insurance scheme in Andhra Pradesh;,

(b) whether Government propose to include the grapes under this scheme as this item is coming up fast in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, by what time a decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Eleven crops namely; Paddy, Groundnut, Maize, Jowar, Bajra, Green Gram, Black Gram, Red Gram, Ragi, Castor and Gingelly have been covered under the crop insurance scheme during kharif T985 season in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to include Grapes under the scheme.

(c) Does not arise.